

LAFAYETTE'S TOUR

The Lafayette's Tour byway takes motorists through several of the communities that French Gen. Marquis de Lafayette visited on his 1825 tour of the United States. The city of Fayetteville, in southeastern North Carolina, was named for this famous Revolutionary War hero.

The byway's western end is located in one of North Carolina's richest historical areas. Note that North Carolina's early development was not limited by political boundaries, as explorers and settlers from Virginia and North Carolina crossed the present state line to share culture and trade. In many cases, this part of North Carolina and the southern part of Virginia are nearly identical in economy, architecture and regional dialect.

To access the byway, travel U.S. 1 to Henderson, the Vance County seat, take the exit onto Warrenton Road (S.R. 1001), and turn right. The byway begins here and travels 11 miles to Warrenton. Although the state road number remains 1001, the road name changes to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard at the Warren County line. **At the intersection of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and U.S. 401 (Main**

Street), turn left onto U.S. 401.

Warrenton, named for Joseph Warren, a soldier killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill, is the Warren County seat. Enjoy views of historic antebellum houses while driving through the town or take a pleasant stroll on the courthouse grounds. Gen. Lafayette stayed

at a plantation south of town between his speeches in Halifax and Raleigh.

Warrenton has been home to many famous people such as journalist Horace Greeley and John A. Hyman, North Carolina's first African-American congressman, as well as the Bragg brothers, who were both politicians and soldiers. **One block later, turn right at the courthouse onto N.C. 43/58 (Macon Street). Follow N.C. 43 when the routes split about four miles later in the Liberia community. Continue on N.C. 43 nearly 11 miles across rolling hills to Essex.** Incorporated in 1891, Essex was the center of a free African-American settlement prior to the Civil War. Descendants of some of the original families live here today.

Past Essex, make a sharp left turn onto N.C. 561 East and follow it for



N.C. Travel & Tourism

Owens House in Historic Halifax